In re AKEMAKOU
09/700,877

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated November 17, 2003 and the indication of allowable subject matter. This amendment and remarks to follow are fully responsive thereto.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nondahl (USP 4,405,873) in view of Tanaka (USP 4,727,273) and Leitgeb (USP 5,015,902). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nondahl '873 in view of Tanaka '273; Leitgeb '902 and Hiroshi (JP 58-063059). These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the foregoing amendment and the following comments.

Applicant has amended claim 3 into independent form and claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. Amended claim 3 is recites an arrangement where the rare earth magnet is closer to the air gap than the ferrite magnet. None of the art teaches or suggests this arrangement.
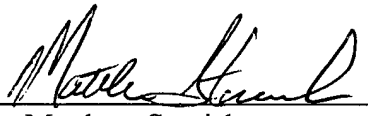
As already mentioned, the permanent magnets of Leitgeb '902 produce a radial flux, which is different from the claimed invention where an orthoradial flux is produced. Therefore, it is clear that the prior art combination suggested by the Examiner fails to render obvious the claimed invention because the combination fails to set for the each claim element and structure.

New dependent claims 18 and 19 have been added to recite additional features of the invention not disclosed or suggested in the prior art. Claim 19 is based on the specification at page 5, 5th paragraph. No new matter has been entered.

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It is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 9-19 define the invention over the prior art and that the claims be considered allowable and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:

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